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**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

## South Asia – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

October 17, 2005

### BACKGROUND

- A magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan, on October 8, 2005, at 8:50 a.m. local time, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The epicenter of the earthquake was located near Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani Kashmir, and approximately 60 miles north-northeast of the national capital, Islamabad.
- Aftershocks continue in the affected areas. The delivery of humanitarian assistance is constricted by the mountainous area, cold weather, and damaged or collapsed infrastructure. The most affected areas are the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), Northern Punjab, and Pakistani Kashmir in Pakistan, and Indian Kashmir in India.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE <sup>1</sup>		SOURCE
<b>Pakistan</b>	38,000 dead* 65,000 injured 2.5 million homeless	U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – October 16
<b>India</b>	1,300 dead 7,000 injured 150,000 homeless	Government of India – October 13 U.N. Development Program (UNDP) – October 15 Government of India – October 14

\* International media reports indicate that more than 50,000 people may be dead, according to unconfirmed reports from local officials.

**U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Pledged ..... up to \$50,000,000**  
**USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Pakistan ..... \$14,662,927**  
**USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed to India ..... \$100,000**  
**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to South Asia ..... \$14,762,927**

### CURRENT SITUATION

#### *Pakistan*

- According to OCHA, one week after the earthquake, relief operations remain in the life-saving stage in Pakistan due to the combination of logistical challenges (including airport congestion), rapidly deteriorating weather conditions, and the number of injured. Lack of access to remote areas continues to be a major constraint. Continuous rains over the weekend slowed down relief operations, temporarily grounding helicopters.
- Limited distribution of relief supplies is occurring in accessible areas, but there is growing concern that current truck and air assets are insufficient to deliver the required amount of supplies. The Pakistani military has begun to use mules to access remote villages around Balakot isolated due to road damage and landslides.
- Beyond a lack of access to deliver relief supplies, many of the affected areas have not been assessed, according to the U.N. As a result, exact casualty figures, as well as the condition and needs of the survivors in some areas, remain unknown.
- Tents remain a critical need, and current assessments have led to a revision of shelter requirements. The U.N. now estimates that thousands additional tents are required beyond the more than 100,000 currently in the pipeline. According to the shelter coordination group in Islamabad, only 20,000 tents have been distributed to date. The need for tents is increasingly critical due to freezing temperatures and constant rainfall in the affected areas.
- As of October 16, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), NGO partners, and the Pakistani Army had delivered food to approximately 440,000 people in affected areas. Food commodities fall behind shelter materials and medical assistance as priorities for helicopter sorties, according to WFP. In addition, lack of NGO distribution capacity is further limiting the delivery of emergency food rations. On October 16, eight WFP trucks with 100 tons of mixed commodities (wheat flour, pulses, dates, and high-energy biscuits) arrived in Muzaffarabad. On October 17, WFP plans to distribute 45 metric tons of flour and pulses to approximately 66,000 people in 33 villages around Balakot.
- According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), over the past week, approximately 4,000 injured people have been evacuated by helicopters from the Muzaffarabad area to Islamabad and other cities. The main health risks are lack of clean drinking water, diarrhoeal illnesses, pulmonary diseases, and non-treatment of injuries.
- According to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), up to 600,000 latrines may be required to meet the sanitation needs in affected areas.

<sup>1</sup> These figures are the best available estimates.

*India*

- According to the Government of India (GOI), 12,000 of the estimated 30,000 tents required have been sent to the affected area for delivery to various villages. The GOI anticipates that an additional 10,000 tents will be delivered by the end of the week. However, according to international media reports, many earthquake survivors are still without assistance, and 90 percent of the survivors remain homeless.
- The Government of India has not appealed for international assistance.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

*Pakistan*

- USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) to Pakistan on October 10. The mission of the USAID/DART is to assess humanitarian needs, assist with targeting and coordination of USG assistance in conjunction with USAID/Pakistan, and provide technical assistance as required. There are currently 10 USAID/DART members in Pakistan, and more staff are scheduled to arrive in the coming days. Three members of the USAID/DART are in Muzaffarabad, which is serving as the logistical hub for relief efforts. The USAID/DART will also establish a presence in Mansehra.
- In response to the U.N. Flash Appeal, USAID/OFDA has provided \$10.8 million in funding to support transitional shelter programs, health, water and sanitation, a humanitarian air service, logistical coordination, and the movement of supplies to affected populations and movement of those populations to safe areas.
- On October 13, USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000 to ICRC to support the distribution of emergency relief supplies to affected populations.
- To date, USAID has delivered emergency relief commodities to Pakistan in four airlifts.
  - On October 16 and 17, two flights containing tents airlifted by USAID arrived in Islamabad. A third flight, containing the remainder of the 1,570 tents is scheduled to arrive on October 18. The tents will be provided to Mercy Corps for distribution in the Mansehra region. The total value of this airlift, including transport, is approximately \$471,000.
  - On October 15, a USAID airlift of 10 WHO emergency health kits arrived in Islamabad on October 15. The 10 kits contain sufficient medical supplies to treat 100,000 people for 3 months. On October 16, WHO transported USAID's 10 health kits to Muzaffarabad and Mansehra for distribution.
  - On October 14, a USAID airlift of relief commodities arrived in Islamabad, carrying 250 rolls of plastic sheeting—sufficient for approximately 2,500 families—5,000 blankets, 5,000 water containers, 8 water bladders. In addition, a flight containing two mobile water purification units is scheduled to arrive on October 15. The total value of these commodities, including transport, is approximately \$266,000. On October 16, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) transported the two mobile water treatment units and three water bladders to Muzaffarabad.
  - On October 10, a USAID airlift of relief commodities arrived in Islamabad, carrying 250 rolls of plastic sheeting—sufficient for approximately 2,500 families—5,000 blankets, and 5,000 water containers. The commodities are consigned through USAID/Pakistan to Save the Children for distribution to affected populations in Mansehra and Batagram Districts. The total value of the commodities, including transport, is approximately \$170,000.
- On October 9, the IFRC issued a Preliminary Emergency Appeal for \$8.4 million. USAID/OFDA has provided \$2 million through the American Red Cross to support relief efforts identified in the appeal.
- On October 8, 2005, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan C. Crocker declared a disaster due to the magnitude of damage caused by the earthquake. On October 8, USAID/OFDA provided an immediate \$100,000 through USAID/Pakistan for emergency relief supplies to meet the immediate needs of those affected by the earthquake.
- The U.S. Military has completed 168 helicopter sorties and one airdrop, delivered 324 tons of humanitarian aid, and evacuated 2,523 people out of the affected area. There were no helicopter operations during the last 24 hours due to weather. The Motor Vessel (MV) Northern Lights and USS Pearl Harbor are expected to offload engineering equipment in Pakistan in the next 48 hours. The first increment of a U.S. Army MASH hospital is scheduled to arrive in Pakistan on October 18.

*India*

- A USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor has been in India since October 11 assisting USAID/India with damage and needs assessments and making recommendations regarding any additional USG assistance.
- On October 10, U.S. Ambassador to India David C. Mulford issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of the October 8 earthquake across northern India. In response, USAID/OFDA is providing \$100,000 through USAID/India to help meet the immediate humanitarian needs of the earthquake victims, \$50,000 of which will be provided to the Indian Prime Minister's Relief Fund and \$50,000 to support emergency relief activities.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
American Red Cross	IFRC Preliminary Emergency Appeal	Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
ICRC	Delivery of relief supplies	Affected Areas	\$500,000
IOM	Delivery of relief supplies and transport of displaced populations to safe areas	Affected Areas	\$3,000,000
USAID/Pakistan	Emergency relief supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
UNICEF	Water and Sanitation	Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
WHO	Health	Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
WFP	Joint Logistics Center	Affected Areas	\$300,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Operations	Affected Areas	\$3,500,000
	Emergency relief supplies	Affected Areas	\$695,783
	Airlifts of emergency relief supplies		\$333,144
	Administrative support		\$234,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN</b>			<b>\$14,662,927</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents amounts committed or already provided as of October 17, 2005.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
Prime Minister's Relief Fund	Emergency relief activities	Affected Areas	\$50,000
USAID/India	Emergency relief activities	Affected Areas	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents amounts committed or already provided as of October 17, 2005.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on identifying such organizations is available in the "How Can I Help" section of [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: South Asia Earthquake, or by calling The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)